reducing biotic pressure on such corridors. An amount of Rs. 3.33 Crore has been released to the State Government under the Project since its inception for protection and development of elephant corridors.

Sale of peacock feathers

1762. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal sale of peacock feathers;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to prevent its sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Peacock tail feathers are shed annually and are collected countrywide by local people, in rural and urban areas, for religious, cultural and other purposes. There is no restriction on collection and sale of naturally shed peacock tail feathers within the country. However, export of peacock tail feathers is banned.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in National Parks and Bird Sanctuaries

1763. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the number of National Parks, Bird Sanctuaries, Zoo's, project tigers and elephants and lion safaris in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of such increase proposed to be made in 2003-04, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Power to establish national parks and sanctuaries vests with State Government,

and, Central Government only provides financial and technical assistance to support such efforts.

As per the Supreme Court's order dated 20.11.2000 no new zoo. Zoo in the country shall be set up without clearance from Central Zoo Authority and approval of the Supreme Court, Central Zoo Authority has approved one proposal for setting up of a zoo at Dizee World in Tamil Nadu and directed the concerned to obtain the permission of the Supreme Court. There is no proposal to increase the number of lion safaries during 2003-04.

The Steering Committee of Project Tiger has "in principal' approved inclusion of 8 protected areas under Project Tiger for inclusion in due course. Keeping in view the present availability of funds no increase is proposed to be made in 2003-04.

For effective conservation of elephant, 25 Elephant Reserves have been identified by the Central Government in the country. Out of this 23 have been approved by Central Government and 14 have already been notified by respective State Governments. The action to notify the balance approved Reserves lies at the level of State Governments.

Review of Yamuna Action Plan by IIT, Roorkee

1764. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) was reviewed by IIT, Roorkee recently; and

(b) if so, what are its findings and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of Yamuna Action Plan was reviewed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee during the year 2002. The conclusions and recommendations of the review are given in the Statement. (*See* below). The recommendations of the review have been noted and implementing agencies have been informed to take necessary corrective actions wherever needed to remove the bottlenecks.